

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks and the reopening of prosecution. Claims 1, 2, 7-10, 13 and 14 were amended.

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Reznik* (5951839) in view of *Spadaccini* (6315815) and *Isley* (3933638). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as there is absolutely no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to modify *Reznik* in view of *Spadaccini* and *Isley* as proposed.

Initially, the Examiner admits that *Reznik* does not disclose the mechanism by which the fuel redox potential is reduced, i.e., the combination of hydrogen with oxygen to form water. The Examiner further admits that *Reznik* fails to teach the removal of water from the fuel. This is as expected since *Reznik* is not even concerned with fuel but with a method of providing a water-based fluid with active hydrogen for watering plants 94 or for spraying in the air so as to reduce the redox potential of an interior atmosphere of a growing enclosure. [See *Reznik* Figure 7.]

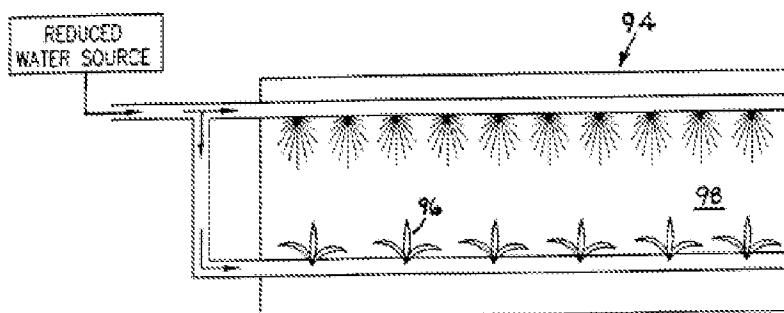


FIG.7

Since the entire purpose of *Reznik* is to provide a water-based fluid with active hydrogen, there is no reason whatsoever why a person of ordinary skill in fuel systems would have combined *Spadaccini* and/or *Isley* with *Reznik* as proposed. *Spadaccini* is a membrane based fuel deoxygenator while *Isley* is a simple fuel filter. Neither secondary reference provides a water-based fluid and are not in any way concerned with the biological systems of *Reznik*. Simply, there is no motivation to combine either of *Spadaccini* or *Isley* with *Reznik*. Either failure results in defeat of the rejection. In fact, it appears that the only motivation to make the combination as

proposed is by following the knowledge disclosed within Applicant's present invention. This is impermissible usage of hindsight in an attempt to recreate Applicant's device. Accordingly, the claims are properly allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge \$120 to Deposit Account No. 50-1482 for a one month extension of time.

Respectfully Submitted,

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